REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 9-12 are newly added.

The applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents, and for acknowledging that the drawings are acceptable.

The Office action objects to the specification and claim 6 for typographical errors. The applicants thank the Examiner for this attention to detail. The specification and claim 6 are correspondingly amended herein; no new matter is added, and the scope of claim 6 is unchanged.

The Office action rejects:

claims 1, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Endo (USP 6,363,491); and

claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Endo and Tsai et al. (USP 6,101,076, hereinafter Tsai). The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In claim 1, upon which each of the other rejected claims depends, claims a device with a control circuit that initiates operation of the device in either a slave mode or a stand-alone mode dependent upon whether power is detected on a bus. The term "stand-alone" is defined at page 2, lines 27-32 of the applicants' specification, including: "The device starts actions that the device would not take, or would only take upon command by the host station, if the host station had been detected."

Endo teaches a USB hub apparatus that detects whether power is being provided on a bus by a host computer, and subsequently reduces or terminates power to USB devices connected to the hub. Endo characterizes the prior-art as teaching devices that enter a "sleep-mode" when communications with a host device are not detected within a predefined period, but notes that devices in sleep-mode continue to consume power. Endo teaches a means of further reducing power consumption when the host computer terminates providing power on the bus connection, by terminating power to the devices, or providing a very low voltage

(nominally 1 volt). That is, Endo teaches placing devices in a state that consumes less power than a sleep-mode state when power is not provided by the host computer.

The Office action characterizes Endo's less-than-sleep-mode as corresponding to the applicants' claimed stand-alone mode. The applicants respectfully traverse this characterization of Endo. The applicants respectfully maintain that Endo teaches terminating activities at the devices when the host computer does not provide power, whereas the applicants teach continued activity when the host computer does not provide power.

Endo's less-than-sleep-mode is an inactive state, whereas the applicants' claimed stand-alone mode is defined to be an active state. Endo teaches terminating power to each device, or providing a very low voltage, such as 1 volt to devices that normally operate at 5 volts. Conventionally, a voltage in the range of 1 volt is used to maintain memory states, and is not sufficient to provide active functions at the device; and, Endo specifically teaches that providing this low-level of power results in less power consumption than a conventional sleep-mode. As is known in the art, a sleep-mode is a low-power inactive state, wherein the device merely monitors one or more signal lines for an activation signal, and Endo specifically teaches providing less power than is consumed in a sleep-mode.

Because Endo neither teaches nor suggests a device that enters a stand-alone mode, wherein the device remains active, after cessation of power supplied from a host computer, and because Endo specifically teaches against maintaining activity at the device, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the above rejections over Endo.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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